

OXFORD OBSERVER

Vol. IV.

NORWAY, (Maine,) THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1828.

No. 202.

MORAL AND RELIGIOUS.

TOLERATION.

Do always what you yourself think right, others enjoy the same privilege.—The latter is a duty you owe to your neighbor; the former, as well as the latter, are duties you owe to your Maker.—Lord Kaimes' Art of Thinking.

The following illustration of the above maxim, has appeared in a late publication.

London, April 16, 1764.

Sir,—Some time ago, being in company with a friend from North America, [Dr. Franklin] as well known throughout Europe for his ingenious discoveries in natural philosophy, as to his countrymen for his sagacity, his usefulness and activity, in every public spirited measure, and to his acquaintance for all the social virtues; the conversation turned on the subject of persecution.—My friend, whose understanding is as enlarged as his heart is benevolent, did not fail to urge many unanswerable arguments against a practice so obviously repugnant to every dictate of humanity. At length, in support of what he had advanced, he called for a Bible, and turning to the book of Genesis, read as follows:—

CHAP. LXVII.

1. And it came to pass after these things, that Abraham sat in the door of his tent about the going down of the sun.

2. And behold, a man bowed with age, coming from the way of the wilderness leaning on a staff.

3. And Abraham arose, and met him, and said unto him, Turn in, I pray thee, and wash thy feet, and tarry all night; and thou shalt rise early in the morning, and go on thy way.

4. But the man said, Nay, for I will abide under this tree.

5. And Abraham pressed him greatly; so he turned, and they went into the tent: and Abraham baked unleavened bread and they did eat.

6. And when Abraham saw that the man blessed not God, he said unto him, Wherefore dost thou not worship the most high God, creator of heaven and earth?

7. And the man answered and said, I do not worship thy God, neither do I call upon his name; for I have made to myself a God, which abideth always in my house, and provideth me with all things.

8. And Abraham's zeal was kindled against the man, and he arose and fell upon him, and drove him forth with blows into the wilderness.

9. And at midnight God called unto Abraham, saying, Abraham, where is the stranger?

10. And Abraham answered and said, Lord, he would not worship thee, neither would he call upon thy name; therefore have I driven him out from before my face, into the wilderness.

11. And God said, have I borne with him these hundred ninety and eight years, and nourished him, and clothed him, notwithstanding his rebellion against me; and couldst not thou, that art thyself a sinner, bear with him one night?

12. And Abraham said, Let not the anger of my Lord wax hot against his servant; for, I have sinned; forgive me, I pray thee.

13. And he arose, and went forth into the wilderness, and sought diligently for the man, and found him:

14. And returned with him to his tent; and when he had entreated him kindly, he sent him away in the morning with gifts.

15. And God spake again unto Abraham, saying, For this sin shall thy seed be afflicted four hundred years in a strange land.

16. But for thy repentance will I deliver them; and they shall come forth with power, and with gladness of heart, and with much substance.

I own I was struck with the aptness of the passage to the subject; and did not fail to express my surprise, that in all the discourses I had read against a practice so diametrically opposite to the genuine spirit of our holy religion, I did not remember to have seen this chapter noted; nor did I recollect my having read it, though no stranger to my text.

Next morning, turning to the book of Genesis, I found there was no chapter, and that the whole was a neat invention of my friend, whose wit of humor, in which he is a great master, has always an useful and benevolent tendency.

Some difficulty I procured a copy that he pretended to read, which ended you for the entertainment of readers; and you will perhaps not unreasonably at a time when

our church more particularly calls upon us to commemorate the amazing love of Him who possessing the divine virtue of charity in the most supreme degree, laid down his life even for his enemies.

I am, &c.

W. S.

MISCELLANY.

Extracted from an Unpublished Journal.

THE BURNING OF WOMEN IN INDIA.

During the time that I was at Poona, from November 1809 to March 1811, there were four instances of women who burned themselves on the death of their husbands. The first two I witnessed. I desired to ascertain the real circumstances with which those ceremonies were attended, and in particular, to satisfy myself whether the women, who were the victims of them, were free and conscious agents. The spot appropriated to this purpose was on the margin of the river, immediately opposite the house in which I lived.

On the first occasion, the pile was in preparation when I arrived. It was constructed of rough billets of wood, and was about four feet high and seven feet square. At each corner there was a slender pole, supporting a light frame, covered with small fuel, straw, and dry grass. The interval between the pile and the frame, which formed a sort of rude canopy, was about four feet. Three of the sides were closed up with matted straw, the fourth being left open as an entrance. The top of the pile, which formed the bottom of this interval, was spread with straw, and the inside had very much the appearance of the interior of a small hut. The procession with the widow arrived soon after. There were altogether about a hundred persons with her, consisting of the Brahmins who were to officiate at the ceremony, and the retainers furnished by the government. She was on horseback. She had garlands of flowers over her head and shoulders, and her face was besmeared with sandal wood. In one hand she held a looking glass, and in the other a lime stuck upon a dagger. Her dress, which was red, was of the common description worn by Hindoo women, called a *saree*. Where the wife is with the husband when he dies, she burns herself with the corpse; and in those cases where the husband dies at a distance, she must have with her, on the pile, either some relic of his body, or some part of the dress he had on at the time of his death.

In this instance, the husband had been a soldier, and had been killed at some distance from Poona. His widow had with her one of his shoes. She had quite a girlish appearance, and could not have been more than seventeen or eighteen years old. Her countenance was of the common cast, without anything peculiar in its character or expression. It was grave and composed; and neither in her carriage, manner nor gestures, did she betray the slightest degree of agitation or disturbance. She dismounted, and sat down at the edge of the river, and, with the assistance of the Brahmins, went through with some religious ceremonies. She distributed flowers and sweetmeats; and although she spoke little, what she did say was in an easy and natural tone, and free from any apparent emotion. She did not seem to pay any attention to the preparation of the pile; but when she was told that it was ready, rose and walked towards it. She there performed some other ceremonies, standing on a stone, on which the outline of two feet had been traced with a chisel. In front of her was a larger stone, which had been placed as a temporary altar, and on which a small fire had been lit. These ceremonies lasted about five minutes, and when they were over, she, of her own accord, approached the pile, and mounted it without assistance. From the beginning to the end of this trying period, she was to all outward appearance, entirely unmoved. Not the slightest emotion of any kind was perceptible. Her demeanor was calm and placid; equally free from hurry or reluctance. There was no effort, no impatience, no shrinking. To look at her, one would have supposed that she was engaged in some indifferent occupation; and although I was within a few yards of her, I could not, at any moment, detect, either in her voice or manner, or in the expression of her countenance, the smallest appearance of constraint, or the least departure from the most entire self-possession. Certainly, she was not under the influence of any intoxicating drug, nor of any sort of stupefaction; and from first to last, I did not see any person persuading, exciting, or encouraging her. She herself took the lead throughout, and did all that was to be done, of her own accord.

When she was seated on the pile, she adjusted her dress with the same composure that she had all along maintained, and taking from the band of one of the attendants a taper, which had been lit at the temporary altar, she herself set fire to some pieces of linen, which had been suspended for the purpose from the frame above, and then covering her head with the folds of her dress she lay quietly and deliberately down.

No fire was applied to the lower part of the pile; but the flames soon spread through the combustible materials on the frame. The attendants threw some oil on the ignited mass; and the strings by which the frame was attached to the posts being cut, it descended on the pile. The weight of it was insufficient either to injure or confine the victim; but it served to conceal her entirely from view, and it brought the flames into immediate contact with the body of the pile. At the same moment a variety of musical instruments were sounded, producing with the shouts of the attendants, a noise, through which no cries, even if any had issued from the pile, could have been distinguished. The flames spread rapidly, and burned fiercely; and it was not long before the whole mass was reduced to a heap of glowing embers. No weight, nor ligature, nor constraint of any kind was used to retain the woman on the pile; nor was there any obstacle to prevent her springing from it, when she felt the approach of the flames. The smoke was evidently insufficient to produce either suffocation or stupefaction; and I am satisfied that the victim was destroyed by the fire, and by the fire only.

Throughout the whole of this scene, there were no outward appearances to excite horror; no struggle, no violence, none of the contortions, or agonies of death. Not so in the other instance that I witnessed. On that occasion, the woman, who appeared to be about forty, was of a low condition of life. She was meanly dressed in soiled white clothes; and when I arrived, was sitting close to the edge of the river. The corpse, which was that of an old man, was lying within a few yards of her, on one of those light beds used by the natives of India, with garlands of yellow flowers spread over it. The pile was similar to that already described. The widow, probably from her age, and the coarser habits of her life, was more disposed to talk, and had an air of greater confidence than the former young woman, but she seemed quite as firm and collected, and equally free from every appearance of fear and agitation. She had a very decided manner, and looked steadily bent upon her purpose. There was even a certain cheerfulness about her, and the only symptoms of impatience she betrayed, was when she missed the corpse of her husband, which, without her noticing it, had been removed, while she was in conversation on the pile.

In the former instance, the sufferer was alone. I could not discover that she had any relations with her. But in this case two children and a sister of the widow were present at the ceremony. The children, who were apparently about five and seven years old, may not have fully understood what was passing before them; but even the sister was unmoved. She stood, with one of the children in her arms, and the other by her side, within a few yards of her sister, but no act of recognition passed between them. The widow must have seen her children, but she took no notice of them; and she was evidently as undisturbed by their presence as they were by her condition. She spoke to me and a gentleman who was with me, and asked us for money, which she distributed to those around her. When the pile was ready, she rose, and walked to it with a firm easy step. There, as well as at the river-side, she went through ceremonies similar to those observed in the former instance. Before she mounted the pile, she turned round, and made an obeisance to me, to the Brahmins, and to the various persons who stood by; but still she took no notice of her children or sister. Even at this moment, her countenance and manner were entirely undisturbed. She took her place calmly by the left side of the corpse, which had already been laid upon the pile; and having lit the pieces of linen attached to the frame above her, she covered her face with a part of her dress, and lay down. The attendants immediately cut the strings by which the frame was suspended; but only three of the corners fell, the fourth still remaining attached to the upper part of the post. Attempts were made to loosen it, but before it could be moved the flames had gained such height as to drive the attendants from the pile.

The force that had been used had, however, so much shaken the whole structure, that just as the flames reached that part of it where the victim lay, the billets at one corner gave way, and the poor creature fell, her head resting on the ground, and the whole upper part of her body being exposed beyond the pile. She was scorched and disfigured by the fire, and must have been in the endurance of agony unspeakable: but her fortitude never forsook her. Instead of rushing from the flames, she clung, with a convulsive grasp, to the corner post, and although the motion of her lips showed that she was muttering something to herself, not one single cry escaped her. I saw no more. The attendants instantly cast billets of wood on her as she lay; a fresh heap was raised over her body, and the spreading of the flames soon consummated the sacrifice.

On both occasions, the indifference of the spectators was not less remarkable than the calmness and resolution of the victim. They looked on, or assisted, without any indication of sympathy or concern. Even the nearest relations of the sufferer seemed to regard what was passing as an occurrence of no moment, and especially during the horrors of this last instance, it was impossible not to be struck with the total absence of that breathless anxiety, that awful dread, that reverential silence, with which the approach of death is always contemplated among a Christian people.

GEN. JACKSON'S LETTER.

It has been asserted by the opposition paper of this city, that the letter of Gen. Jackson, in relation to Silas Dinsmore, was presented to the world in a mutilated form; and that this mutilation was wilfully made for the purpose of placing Gen. Jackson in an unfavorable light before the people of the United States. By no conduct of ours, have we ever rendered ourselves justly liable to such an imputation. With a view to free ourselves from a charge of this nature, we publish a LITERAL COPY of a letter of General Jackson. We have no comments to offer upon the subject. All our present purpose is completed, by making it clear, that we have neither distorted the letter in question, nor been the agent of circulating a distorted version.—*Nat. Journal.*

GENERAL JACKSON'S LETTER.

Hermitage near Nashville

October 15th. 1812.

The Honorable

George W. Campbell Esq

Sir, you will receive herewith inclosed, the certificate of John Gordon and Major Thomas G. Bradford editor of the *Clarion* on the Subject of the card bearing date Sept. 11th 1812 from Silas Dinsmore United States agent to the Choctaw nation being in the proper hand writing of the said Silas Dinsmore, you will also receive enclosed, the paper of the 26th. Sept. containing the card of Mr. Dinsmore, which I beg you to lay before the Secretary of War, as soon as the reach you, and I beg of you to communicate to me without delay his determination as it respects the removal of Mr. Dinsmore.—When I read your letter of the 10th of April last inclosing me an extract of the Secretary of War's letter to Silas Dinsmore agent to the Choctaw nation, I, nor the citizens of West Tennessee, hesitated not to believe that Silas Dinsmore would cease to exercise over our citizens such lawless tyranny as he had been in the habit of, and that our peaceful and honest citizens would be left to enjoy the free and unmolested use of that road as secured to them by treaty—you can easily Judge and so can the Secretary of War, our surprise and indignation, at the wanton insult offered to the whole citizens of West Tennessee by the publication of his card in the *Clarion*—in which he boasts—that he has set at defiance the Solem treaty that secures to our citizens and those of the United States the free and unmolested use of that road as well as the express instruction of the Secretary of War of the 23rd. March last, and boast his detention of a defenceless woman and her property—and for what! the want of a passport—and my god! is it come to this—are we free men or are we slaves is this real or is it a dream—for what are we involved in a War with Great Britain—is it not for the Support of our rights as an independent people and a nation, Secured to us by nature and by nature's god as well as Solem treaties and the law of nations—and can the Secretary of War for one moment retain the idea, that we will permit this petty Tyrant to Sport with our rights Secured to us by treaty and which by the law of nature we do possess—and Sport with our

feelings by publishing his lawless tyranny over a helpless and unprotected female if he does he thinks too meanly of our Patriotism and gallantry—were we base enough to Surrender our independent rights Secured to us by the bravery and blood of our fore fathers, we are unworthy the name of freemen—and we view all rights Secured to us by Solem treaty, under the Constituted authority, rights Secured to us by the blood of our fathers and which we will never yield but with our lives.—The indignation of our Citizens are only restrained by assurances that government so Soon as they are notified of this unwarrantable insult, added to the many injuries that Silas Dinsmore has heaped upon our honest and unoffending Citizens, that he will be removed.—Should we be deceived in this, be frank with the Secretary of war, that we are free men, and that we will Support the Supremacy of the laws, and that the wrath and indignation of our citizens will sweep from the earth the invader of their legal rights and involve Silas Dinsmore in the flames of his agency house—we love order, and nothing but a Support of our legal and inalienable rights, would or could prompt us to do an act, that could be construed as wearing the appearance of rashness—but Should not the Source of the evil be removed, our rights secured treaty restored to our Citizens—the agent, and his houses will [be] demolished—and when government is applied to, and so often notified of the injuries heaped upon our Citizens and they will adhere to the agent who delights in treading under foot the rights of the Citizens, and exalts in their distresses—the evil be upon the government not upon the people who have so often complained without redress—we really hope that the evil will be cut off by the root, by a removal of the agent, should this not be done we will have a right fairly to conclude that the administration winks at the agents conduct under the rose, notwithstanding the instructions of the Secretary in his letter to Mr. Dinsmore of the 23rd of March—the right of nature occurs—and if redress is not afforded, I would despise the wretch that would slumber in quiet one night before he cutt up by the roots the invader of his Solem rights, regardless of consequences—let not the Secretary of war believe that we want more than Justice, but both from indian and indian agents, we will enjoy the rights secured to us by Solem treaty or we will die nobly in their Support, we want but a bare fulfilment of the treaty—we neither under Stand the Tyranny of the agent in open violation of our rights Secured to us by treaty—or the Creek law, that takes from the United States the right granted by treaty that the indians who commit murders on our Citizens, shall be delivered up when demanded, to be tried by the laws of the United States & punished—the Creek law says the Creeks will punish them, themselves—These innovation without the consent of the constituted power of the government being first had our citizens do not understand, the information of Colo Hawkins U. S. agent for the Creeks and the information of Genl James Robertson agent of the Chickasaw Nation, to the contrary notwithstanding neither can we the citizens of Tennessee believe without better proof that the hair of the head of one of the murderers of Manleys family and Crawleys at the mouth of Duck river are disturbed by the creeks, when we have proof that they have lately passed near to Caskaskin fifteen in number to Join the Prophet.—In this particular we want and do expect the murderers delivered up agreeable to treaty—this is only Justice this we ask of Government—this we are entitled to, and this we must (Sooner or later) and will have—This may be thought strong language—but it is the language that freemen when the are only claiming a fulfilment of their rights ought to use—it is a language that the ought to be taught to slip from their credulous—and never when they are claiming rights from any nation ever to abandon—

Pardon the trouble I have given you in this long letter—it relates to the two Subjects that has for sometime irritated the publick mind, and is now ready to burst forth in vengeance—I am Dr sir with due regard

Yr mo ob Servt

(Signed) ANDREW JACKSON.

I do certify that, some time in the month of August last, on my way from Natchitoches, I passed the Agency house on the Choctaw Nation, with two servants, and inquired for Silas Dinsmore, the agent, who was not then at home. I tarried for the space of an hour or more, and no person demanded a passport of me. I then proceeded on my

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journey, met Mr. Dinsmore, near the pike a roost, who asked me for my passport, I informed him that I had none. He appeared astonished that I should have come through without one. I told him, I had been advised, that it was not necessary, as he had been advised by the Secretary of War, to desist from stopping of property under the pretext he had heretofore done, and that I had it in my power, without any inconvenience, to have procured a passport, had it been deemed necessary. He admitted, he had received such instructions, with discretionary power, to detain property, under suspicious circumstances, but that he would not undertake to discriminate, and should under circumstances act as he had done, until the powers, under which he acted, were entirely taken from him. He then took an obligation of me, to give him, from some proper person, a certificate of the right of property, and gave me a passport to proceed.

Certificate at Nashville, this 25th of September, 1812.

JOHN GORDON.

Can any freeman read the above without indignation, and a firm determination if government, does not give us immediate relief, to burn the lawless tyrant in the agency house—what that he will not obey the orders of the Secretary of War or the Solemn guarantee under the treaty that "the Citizens of the United States shall enjoy the free and unmolested use of that road"—and Mr. Dinsmore nevertheless will not suffer it—the die is cast—The citizens say they will remove the nuisance if government does not—

THE PRESIDENCY.

We have often involuntarily made the inquiry of ourselves, is it possible that there is any chance of such a man as Andrew Jackson becoming President of the United States?

We have no disposition to dwell on the faults of any one, and in general would forbear to remark where censure only can be used; but when such a man as Andrew Jackson stands a candidate for the first office in the gift of the nation, no feelings of delicacy should prevent the repeated mention of his faults, though some apology may be due the public, for inflicting on them a catalogue of offences, which, to a well ordered mind must be sickening indeed. Is it possible then, that there is any chance of this man's being placed over us: a man, who almost with an even tenor has trampled on the laws of humanity, of justice and of his country: who has permitted (to use a mild term) the execution of the unresisting captive and of the unoffending citizen: who has disobeyed the orders of his Government and offered indignity to her civil officers which should forever disqualify him for any office, whose influence should extend beyond himself: who has shown the most deplorable ignorance of the constitution and laws of his country: a victor indeed, but one who has proved himself unworthy to be entrusted with the lives of soldiers: a man, in short, at the mention of whose name humanity weeps and the just indignation of her offended laws and of the laws of his country is called forth: of humble intellectual powers withal, and whom few believe to be in any respect qualified for the office? Is this the man, we repeat, who is to be placed at the head of that nation whose best it is that he has the whole nation from which to choose? For those who prefer Gen. Jackson for what he is, he is probably a fit leader, and the secret of their choice may be sought in the sympathy of their characters; but of such we believe the number to be very few: we know that many and we believe that most of his most zealous advocates would recoil from acknowledging any sympathy in the leading habits of his character.—We have never been particularly friendly to Mr. Adams, (though his administration is acknowledged to have been almost unexceptionable,) but we are not of those who are willing to sacrifice the honor and jeopardize the interests of the country, for personal or sectional animosity.—Fellow citizens, the eye of the world is fixed upon this republic: the nations of Europe believe our government to be but a doubtful experiment, and the election of a man like Andrew Jackson would afford abundant reason to doubt the ability of the people to govern themselves; it would lower the nation in their estimation and in our own. Is there an American who would not be ashamed of that page of his country's history which should record the election of Gen. Jackson to the highest office in the gift of the people? Mark the language of the Virginia Convention on this subject; in their very able and temperate address to the people of Virginia, which manifested an earnest solicitude for the welfare of the country, they say, by way of preface, "It is an ordinary maxim which at this important season of the year has brought so many of us from our business and our home; we believed that the dearest interests of our country were at stake; that her character, her peace, and her happiness, and even the permanence of her free institutions were imperiled; we feared the most pernicious influences from the election of Gen. Jackson, and we have come to consider the means of averting this calamity."

and to receive the inflictions of the law from our country—we believe that the only means of effecting this great object is the re-election of our present Chief Magistrate.—Such is the language of sober and reflecting men—men to whom the character of General Jackson is thoroughly known, and whom none will impeach with any other motive than that of the best good of their country.

In conclusion, we would ask of those who with such infatuation of zeal are endeavoring to excite the people against the present administration, to reflect what it is that urges them to this extraordinary course—what are the wrongs that aggrive them so—what are the wrongs under which they are now suffering, from which they expect relief in the election of General Jackson.

When such a man as Andrew Jackson is, by deliberate choice, placed at the head of this nation, well may every true patriot, in the last words of Pitt, exclaim—"Oh, my country!" H.

FOREIGN.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

The packet ships George Canoning and Helen, arrived at New-York from Liverpool and Havre, have brought papers, the former from Liverpool and London to the 26th of March, and the latter from Havre and Paris to the same date. The papers do not contain any intelligence which throws additional weight on the affairs of the east, and the accounts from Portugal are no later than we have already received. We find the annexed article under the Vienna head of the 14th of March—

Public opinion is still in favor of peace, but there are persons who pretend to have good reasons, for expecting ere long, the intelligence of the entry of the Russian troops into Moldavia. However pacifically inclined the Emperor Nicholas may be, it is not possible that he should any longer submit to a protracted political negotiation, similar to that in which he was engaged last year, whilst the Porte by closing the Bosphorus, deprives one half of the finest provinces of Russia, of an outlet for their produce.

Our politicians are now occupied with the following subjects for speculation:—The mission of a diplomatic Agent to St. Petersburg, the preparations for the embarking of French troops, for the Morea, and the negotiations of the American Agents at Constantinople.

The Spanish Government has issued orders to all its Ambassadors and Representatives at Foreign Courts, not only to deliver passports to all Spaniards expelled from Mexico who may present themselves, but also to grant them special protection and aid in reaching Spain. Those Spaniards who are included in the decree of May 1st, 1824, are exempted.

By the ship Columbia, at New-York, London papers to the evening of April 1, have been received.

The Gazette de France, of March 30th, contains an extract from the Augsburg Gazette, announcing the arrival, at Vienna, on the 20th, of the mail from Constantinople of February 25th. "By this mail," says the Augsburg Gazette, "we learn that the Porte has returned to a more moderate disposition. It has granted the Greeks an armistice of three months, and promised them an amnesty if they will make their submission."

This offer of amnesty to the Greeks, on condition of their submitting to the Porte, will, of course, amount to nothing. It was made previous to the treaty of the 6th of July, and the repetition of the offer now proves a fixed determination in the Porte not to acknowledge the intervention of the Allied Powers. There was a report in London on the 29th, that the Bosphorus had been re-opened to European commerce, and that the Turks had proposed an armistice for the purpose of having negotiations resumed at Constantinople.

It is doubtless true, however, that preparations for war were prosecuted at Constantinople with as great vigor as ever; and the London "Globe and Traveller" asserts, that, with the writers of a great majority of the letters brought by the last mail, no doubt of immediate hostilities between the Porte and Russia was entertained.

The Journal of St. Petersburg of the 11th of March had been received, which contains two important articles, the first being the declaration of the Emperor's opinion upon the memorable manifesto of the Porte. It expresses in strong language the regret of Russia at that manifesto, and her determination to require a complete and speedy reparation for all the wrongs which Russia has suffered at the hands of the Sultan, while she, at the same time, prosecutes with her Allies the negotiations consequent upon the Treaty of London. She will conform to that treaty to the very letter, in all that concerns its spirit and execution, while she will find means, single-handed, by the aid of Providence, to obtain indispensable reparation for her injuries. The declaration of the Divan, that they never intended to execute the stipulations of the treaty of Ackerman, has caused great and just indignation.

DOMESTIC.

Explosion.—The Powder Mill of Messrs. Hoyt & Ingersoll, in South Lee, containing three and a half tons powder, blew up at 3 o'clock on Saturday morning last. The workmen were sleeping in a building at a little distance, which was nearly demolished, but they escaped unhurt.—S. Gazette

ALBANY, April 17.

DISTRESSING AND DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—On Wednesday night, at a little after 12, our citizens were aroused by the alarming cry of fire, which was found to proceed from the building in Beaver-st., occupied by Mr. Aspinwall as a brass and bell foundry. The night was calm; but the quarter where the devoting element made its appearance, amid narrow streets and buildings peculiarly susceptible to its ravages, rendered it impracticable to arrest its progress until it had spread destruction and ruin much farther and wider than any similar calamity in this city has done for more than 20 years. What renders the visitation peculiarly distressing is, that it has fallen heavily and extensively upon the middle class of our citizens, upon the honest laborer and the industrious mechanic, and has unhoused between fifty and sixty families, besides subjecting them to losses in the destruction of furniture and other moveables, which must be severely felt by all, and which many of them are ill able to bear. The amount of loss, either in real or personal estate, we have not heard estimated with any accuracy, but it may probably be placed at \$50,000. Of the real estate we understand that but a small proportion was insured.

The fire raged with great violence between three and four hours, sweeping in its course all the buildings on the south side of Beaver-st., from Green-street nearly to South Market-street, and on the north side of the same street between the brick building on the corner of Green and Beaver, occupied by Mr. Dunn, and the brick building occupied by Mr. D. McClash, as a printing office. It also extended its ravages across the square to Hudson-street, and destroyed in the whole, between 30 and 40 buildings, the majority of which were not of great value.—Morning Chronicle.

From the Sackett Harbour Advocate of April 24. HORROR MURDER.—It becomes our painful duty to record one of the most shocking and appalling murders that ever blackened the catalogue of human crime, which occurred at Bownville in this county on the 15th inst. A misunderstanding had long subsisted between four individuals of that place, by the names of Joseph and Heber Rodgers, Henry Dimon and Henry Evans, neighbors, all of whom were concerned in this bloody tragedy. Evans was living upon a piece of land which he held by contract and had often stated that he should quit it this spring, upon learning which, one of the Rodgers went to the owner of the land and obtained a new contract for it and informed Evans what he had done. Evans then swore he would not leave the premises till he got ready. This fanned the embers of the old feud existing between them to a flame, and a consultation was held between the two Rodgers and Dimon to devise how they should dispossess Evans of the place. A brother, of the Rodgers, who was a particular friend of Evans, overhearing the conversation respecting putting Evans out of the house on the premises in question, and went to him on the evening of the 15th of April, and told him what his brother Joseph and Heber and Dimon were determined to do, and remained with him in the house during the consummation of the horrid and bloody act which ensued. He says Evans barred the door to keep his brothers and Dimon out, but Heber Rodgers and Dimon, who still survive, say the door was not barred when they entered the house. Some time in the evening Joseph Rodgers went to the house, his brother Heber and Dimon following after at some distance. Joseph entered the door and was instantly struck to the floor by Evans, by a blow on the head with an axe, and soon expired. Shortly after Dimon and Heber came up to the house, and Dimon went in and was met by Evans with a blow upon the head with the axe with which he was armed, which brought him to the floor, but which has not yet proved mortal. Heber then entered the house ignorant, (as it would seem) of the fate of his brother Joseph and Dimon, but on discovering their shocking condition he attempted to retreat and was pursued by Evans, who gave him violent blow upon the back with the edge of the axe which felled him to the ground, from which, however, hopes are entertained that he will recover. Evans then went to a distillery near by and informed the owner, a Mr. Peck, that he had killed the Rodgers and he was glad of it. He said he had long designed to kill them and requested Peck to go with him to his house. On arriving at the house and ascertaining that only one of the unfortunate men upon whom Evans had wreaked his premeditated vengeance was dead he said he was sorry and regretted that he had not despatched all three of them. He has been lodged in jail at Watertown to await his trial.

due to his crimes. We are informed that since in jail he boasts with stoic hardihood of the bloody and depraved deed his hands have done.

DREADED ACCIDENT.—At the laying of the corner stone of the new Methodist Meeting House, about to be erected in Bennet-street, at the North end, yesterday, after the Rev. Mr. Maffit had arrived at the middle of his address, a portion of the floor gave way and precipitated nearly three hundred persons, chiefly ladies, into the cellar beneath. A scene of most appalling confusion ensued. Screams and groans resounded through the air, uttered by those who were safe, as well as those who were mingled in the chaos below. When those who were able had scrambled, out the wounded were picked up. About 30 were badly injured, but none killed outright, although it is feared that several of them cannot survive the injuries they have received.

We have not been able to procure many particulars, but among those who were badly hurt we enumerate Col. Benj. Hayden, who had both legs broken and his head badly bruised; Mr. Thomas Gooding, weaver, leg broken; the wife of Capt. John G. Scott, whose husband is absent at sea, leg broken; the wife of Mr. Wm. W. Motley, tailor, leg broken, and Mrs. Davis, leg broken and otherwise badly injured. The timber, which was a pretty long one, was broken in two pieces, in consequence of a brick pillar (the mortar of which was green) in the cellar having crumbled down. A brick or block of wood was placed between the pillar and timber, in order to keep the level, which appears to have caused the accident, in consequence of the greenness of the mortar throughout the work.

B. Patriot.

MURDER.—The Gore (Upper Canada) Gazette mentions, that a Coroner's Inquest was held on the body of Thomas Wilson, who was killed by a blow from a candlestick on his head, given him in the dark by a man named Rook, during an affray at an inn in that township. The same paper mentions that another inquest was held on the following day, by the same Coroner, on the body of a Squaw, of the Tuscarora tribe. The parties, in company with other Indians, we believe had been drinking to excess, when the Cayuga Indian, taking offense at a song, which the Squaw had been singing, drew his knife, sprang upon her and stabbed her mortally; the other Indians immediately interposed, and in the scuffle one of them was stabbed in the mouth and through the cheek, by the Cayuga, and the fingers of another were nearly cut off in attempting to take away the knife. They succeeded in disarming him, but he got away, and was pursued by several Indians, including a son of the deceased—who, upon finding that murderer was outstripping them in the chase, and likely to escape, fired upon him with his rifle. The fugitive ran near a halt mile after this, when he fell, and the others coming up to him, he quietly surrendered himself. He was covered with blood; the ball had entered his back under his right shoulder blade, and passed out under the right breast.

The Indians immediately delivered him up to the proper authorities.

NATURAL CURIOSITY.—There is to be seen at 201 Meeting street, Charleston, three doors from the Guard House, an African Man, who has without any assignable cause almost entirely changed his color. His face, hands, ankles and feet, are of the original black, the rest of his skin is a perfect healthy white. To naturalists and medical men, he is unquestionably a subject for curious speculation.

SWALLOWING PLUMB PITS.—In August, 1826, a Mr. Robert Martin, of Blenheim, N. Y. ate a quantity of plumbs, and under the impression that they would be less liable to injure him, swallowed pits and all. He was shortly after taken ill, and has been out of health ever since, until about two weeks since, when he took a powerful emetic, and singular as it may seem, he vomited up a string of thirty plumb pits, which must have remained on his stomach from the period of his having eaten the plumbs in 1826, to that time, about 18 months. Scholastic Republican.

On Thursday week a gentleman near Libertytown, Md. had a child two months old put into his arms, in rather a novel and unnatural manner. He was walking with an umbrella over his head, when a woman with a child in her arms begged him to protect her from the rain for a few minutes;—pretending she had been travelling, and was exhausted, he also consented to carry the child a few paces, when the woman stopped to adjust some part of her dress, and gave him the slip, leaving the infant for the gentleman to provide for as he could.

A Female Seminary in Connecticut, diplomas, premiums and titles have recently been conferred upon several young ladies for excellence in literary attainments. We presume the title of Mrs. would have been more acceptable, and if the preceptor of that institution would engage to confer this title, he would not be wanting for scholars. Springfield Rep.

STRAW BOX.—The straw box of Justice Marshall, on his way to the Hudson, last week, was being tampered to last week, by a person named Castleton, the box was opened, and the contents were thrown out. The box was found empty, and the contents were thrown out. The box was found empty, and the contents were thrown out.

STRAW BOX RUN.—The straw box of Justice Marshall, on her passage from Florida, for Mobile, with 700 lbs. of straw, was accidentally burnt, and the straw was without insurance.

The weather in Canada had been cold, and a late seed time was expected as the consequence. The weather, however, had been peculiarly favorable for making maple sugar, which was abundant in some places as late as the 20th of April.

A case of slander, Capt. A. Fallon vs. John Donaldson, was lately tried in Georgia. The jury gave a verdict of \$10,000 damages. The defendant having announced his inability to pay a large sum, the plaintiff struck off and sold the case, leaving Mr. Donaldson but few dollars to pay for slandering his neighbor.

The London Morning Chronicle affirms that, according to the latest accounts, the number of Dissenters in Great Britain, including the Scotch Presbyterians in both kingdoms, amounts to ten million of souls.

The chancellor of England has recently received 1,200£ from an unknown person to be returned to the public funds, "for conscience sake."

The Liverpool Courier of the 26th ult. contains the intelligence of the death of Gen. Brown. The Crisis, (a paper published at St. Francisville, Louisiana) received, at the same time, by the mail, contains the same information.

THE OBSERVER.

NORWAY, MAY 15, 1823.

COURT HOUSE MOVEMENTS.

It is sickening (we can use no other term) to observe the course pursued by the Court House gentry to raise the wind in Grant County. Finding the Republicans of Fennos too strongly armed with principle and integrity to be shaken by their efforts, they are carrying their miserable deceptions into those towns, where they can find more subservient tools, more obedient understrappers.

The gentlemen of the Court House know full well that the moment they attempt, publicly, to try the strength of their party, at home, they are down. Hence, it is, that they have got up the meeting at Buckfield, and by means of their deceptions, have caused a number of the inhabitants of that town to exhibit themselves in a manner, which will, we apprehend, be a source of mortification to them hereafter. It ought to be known that the meeting is from the "work shop," at Paris Hill; and being known, will have precisely the effect in the County, that it ought to have. The manufacturing establishment on the "Hill," have found a very convenient retailing "agent" at Buckfield village—a very grave and dignified boy, who has the experience of nineteen years, at least, and possibly twenty—who has as much knowledge and political information, as some other boys, certainly not more than most other boys of eighteen or twenty years of age. This is a sort of common carrier for the "fact," and deals out their inventions. Although we consider him a very humble instrument, he is certainly entitled to some credit for his services upon the good people of Buckfield. He has done more for the Court House gentlemen than they could do for the natives. But what has the Court House gentry to the "Hero," by this movement. If by the immensity of this boy, and the tremendous eloquence of the Reverend politician of a neighboring town, whipped in for the occasion, they got ninety-nine men to express themselves in favor of the General for President, it does not follow that they will so remain until the election. For the credit of some of the individuals at the Buckfield meeting, we cannot but hope that they will deliver themselves from their leaders; should they not, a majority of the votes of Buckfield are yet unpledged. We assure our readers that such means will produce a similar effect in but few of the towns in this electoral district. The head of the Court House gentry is plainly seen in the whole transaction, and where that is seen, it will be followed. The secret and dark operations are only to be feared.

Since writing the above, we have received a letter from a gentleman in Buckfield giving us a full account of the meeting above alluded to, which we shall take the liberty to give our readers in our next paper.

TRANSPERANCE.

We are pleased to learn that a Temperance Society was formed in Bennington, Vermont, April last, by the efforts of that noble Pennine Monitor, the Pennsylvania Freeman, who has been so long and so faithfully engaged in the cause of the oppressed and the degraded. The society of thirty-four members was formed, and we suppose that view, which is a good one, is not any more.

